

# TRUCKIN' DOWN

## THOSE UTAH HIGHWAYS

What role does the transportation/warehousing industry play outside the Wasatch Front? As with most other pieces of economic data, Utah's nonurban counties demonstrate extraordinary diversity that claims no relationship to size.

Despite the title of this article, the transportation and warehousing industry includes a wide variety of business activities—transportation by air, rail, truck, water, pipeline, or bus; plus scenic tours, couriers, and warehousing/storage. For the purpose of this article, we'll cover just employment in the private sector. However, keep in mind that government also provides many transportation services—including the U.S. postal service (although our data does include private contractors hired by the postal service).

### Both Ends of the Spectrum

When examining transportation/warehousing employment as a percent of total nonfarm employment, nonurban counties can be found at both the top

and bottom of the spectrum. The top nine counties for share of employment in transportation/warehousing can all be found outside the Wasatch Front. In fact, transportation/warehousing companies account for more than 10 percent of employment in Piute, Sevier, and Beaver counties.

What might contribute to higher levels of transportation/warehouse employment? Many transportation-heavy counties have transportation employment which supports industrial, mining, or agricultural activities in their respective communities. Sevier, Duchesne, Uintah, Beaver, Piute and Carbon counties are counted here. In other counties, housing a Wal-Mart Distribution center leads to higher-than-average transportation/warehousing employment (Box Elder, Washington, Tooele counties). In addition, Beaver County benefits from being a hub for railroad employment and a United Parcel Service center while Washington County is home to SkyWest Airlines' corporate headquarters.

On the other hand, many counties outside the Wasatch Front have little-to-no transportation/warehousing employment—Morgan, Grand, Garfield, Kane and Wayne counties show transportation/warehousing employment of 1.1 percent or less.

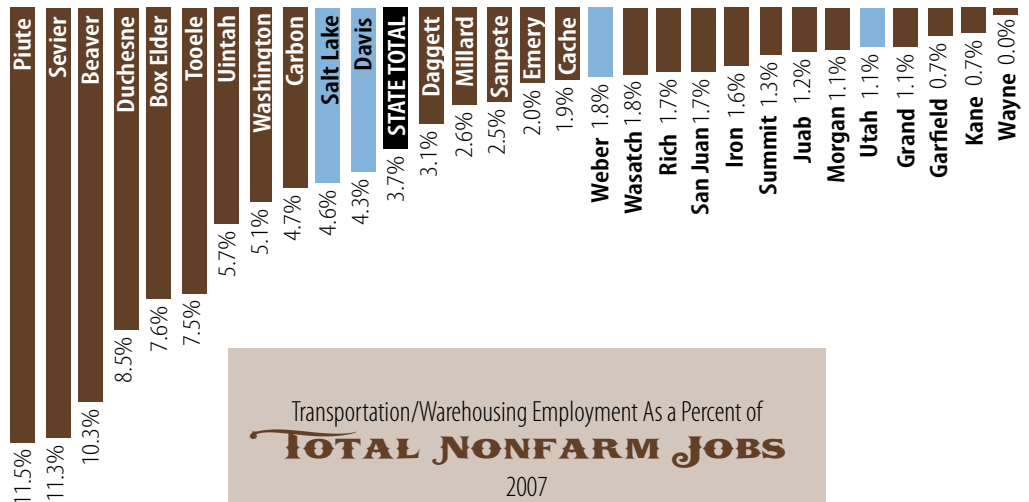
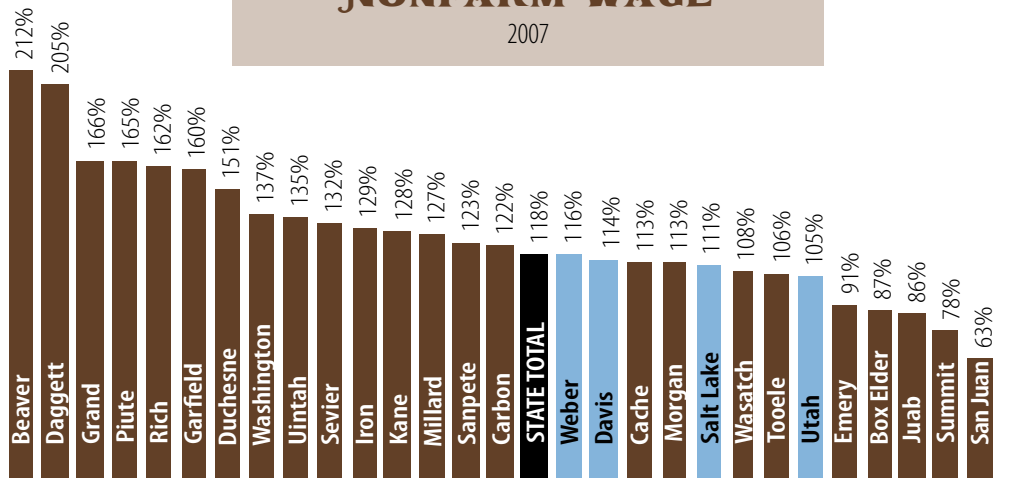
### Better-than-Average Wages

It may be to a county's economic advantage to have a labor market rich in transportation/warehousing jobs. In all but five Utah counties, the average monthly wage for transportation/warehousing industry jobs ranks higher than the county overall average. These jobs are particularly high wage contributors in Beaver, Daggett, Grand, Piute, Rich, Garfield, and Duchesne counties where average transportation/warehousing wages measure more than one and one-half times the average monthly county wage. ●

*For more information about Utah's nonurban counties, see: <http://jobs.utah.gov/jsp/wi/utalmis/gotoCounties.do>*



Transportation/Warehousing  
Nonfarm Average Monthly Wage As a Percent of  
**AVERAGE MONTHLY  
NONFARM WAGE**  
2007



Source: Utah Department of Workforce Services.

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